In the Claims:

1. (Original) A process for alkylating a hydrocarbon feed which comprises contacting the hydrocarbon feed to be alkylated with an alkylation agent in the presence of a catalyst comprising a solid acid, a hydrogenation metal, and 1.5-6 wt% of water, measured as the loss on ignition at 600°C.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process according to claim 1 wherein the catalyst comprises 1.8-4 wt% of water.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process according to claim 2 wherein the catalyst comprises 2-3 wt% of water.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~ wherein the solid acid is selected from the group consisting of zeolites, silica-alumina, sulfated oxides, mixed oxides of zirconium, molybdenum, tungsten, or phosphorus, chlorinated aluminium oxides or clays, and mixtures thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process according to claim 4 wherein the solid acid is a zeolite selected from the group consisting of mordenite, zeolite beta, X-zeolites, and Y-zeolites.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein the hydrogenation metal is a Group VIII noble metal.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein the hydrocarbons are saturated hydrocarbons.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein the catalyst is prepared by adding water to a dry catalyst comprising solid acid and hydrogenation metal before use in the alkylation process.

9, (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-7~~ wherein the alkylation process is started using a catalyst comprising less than 1.5 wt% water and wherein water is added to the catalyst during the alkylation process.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-9~~ wherein water is added to the catalyst during the alkylation process by exposing a regenerated catalyst to a water-containing atmosphere, or by using a water-containing atmosphere during a regeneration step.